THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 14th February 1950.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—SWEARING-IN OF A MEMBER.

Sri M. Sudarsanam was sworn in.

II.—HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislature,

I thank you all most sincerely for your courtesy in attending this joint session. I have often had the privilege of watching your proceedings before, but this is the first occasion I address the two Houses. A new era has just started in the life of our Nation and my presence here is only an indication of this new order of things. We have many difficulties ahead of us in this country. We must not under-rate these difficulties, but let us at the same time prepare to overcome them with a willing and ready spirit and sustained by confidence in our rulers at the helm of affairs whose leadership is one of which any nation may be proud.

Our Constitution has set forth great ideals before us and it is our duty to see that they are fulfilled. The destinies of more than fifty million of our fellow human beings have been placed in our hands, and it is our responsibility to see that these ideals are translated into action for the service and welfare of these millions. The dazzling illuminations with which we lighted up our public buildings on Republic Day can have no meaning unless we bring a portion of that light to the humblest and the meanest homes in our land and dispel the darkness of want and poverty, disease and ignorance.

Among our first responsibilities is that of bringing home to the millions of voters in this State their new duties. The elections under the new Constitution will have to be held in the near future. The new electoral rolls on the basis of adult suffrage are under print and after the new Electoral Law is enacted by Parliament, these rolls will be published as preliminary rolls, and finalized after disposal of claims and objections. My Government expect to be fully ready for holding the first general elections well in time.

Seasonal conditions have been peculiarly bad, as in September 1949 the Ceded districts as well as Krishna and Guntur were affected by floods, while the entire Circars districts suffered heavily from cyclone and heavy rains in October. Remission of land revenue and special expenditure for the relief of sufferers were sanctioned by Government promptly. In the south, the north-east monsoon failed for the third year in succession in certain central and southern districts and here also remission of land revenue will have to be

granted. Regarding improving the lot of the agriculturists, my Government have taken action to intensify the minor irrigation works programme and a tank improvement scheme estimated to cost over Rs. 10 crores spread over a period of five years was sanctioned in August last. Schemes for the grant of subsidies to the ryots for sinking of wells have been in force since 1944 and Government have decided to extend the scheme to 1950–1951 also.

Owing to the damages caused by floods, etc., mentioned under the previous item, the food position in the State has assumed a very grave aspect. The estimated deficit is about 9·9 lakhs tons of rice and 2·9 lakhs tons of millets. Our deficits are usually made up by internal procurement and from supplies made by the Government of India. The internal procurement this year is bound to suffer very materially on account of the loss of crops due to adverse seasonal conditions already referred to. The Government of India have decided to drastically curtail food imports and this will have its effect as regards supplies by the Government of India. My Government are actively considering the steps to be taken to improve the situation so that the hardship to the people is minimized. In this connection they have undertaken a food production drive and all food production schemes will continue to receive the topmost priority. The Government have adopted a two-year plan for intensive cultivation and the scheme includes, production and distribution of seeds, distribution of manure to the ryots and schemes for mechanised cultivation by the use of morden agricultural machinery, such as tractors. The Government have also under active consideration the development of fisheries, both inland and marine, so that the food situation may, to some extent, be eased.

The question of Land Revenue reform has been under the consideration of my Government for some time past. It was thought desirable to await the publication of the report of the Agrarian Reforms Committee appointed by the All-India Congress. The Government propose to constitute a committee of officials and non-officials to examine the present land revenue system and to formulate proposals for its improvement, if it is considered defective. The Committe will examine also the question of framing a Land Revenue Code for the State and such examination will also take into account the recommendations made by the Agrarian Reforms Committee. The Estates Abolition programme of the Government started in September last, when one batch of Estates consisting of six major Estates and 36 minor Estates were taken over. Government hope to take over the remaining estates before long. The rent reduction work in the whole State has made rapid progress and is expected to be completed by the end of March 1950.

It is a matter for legitimate pride that this State has in anticipation of Article 50 of the New Constitution been able to make a good start for the introduction of a scheme for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. The Scheme has already been introduced in six districts and will be extended to the remaining districts without any avoidable delay. The reform has been welcomed with enthusiasm and there is every reason to hope that it will prove beneficial.

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The policy of my Government is to take all possible steps to protect the health of the people, prevent the occurrence of epidemics and provide for adequate medical relief. The rapid implementation of this policy involves large expenditure and, what is even more important, the employment of large numbers of medical men who are not available. Very high priority will therefore be given to the expansion of facilities for medical education and training with a view to increase the output of medical graduates. Water supply and sanitation being fundamental requirements in the campaign of prevention, a five year plan of new water supply and drainage schemes and improvements to existing systems will be vigorously pursued as a first instalment of a plan for the provision of protected water supply within 20 years. With the co-operation of local bodies, public institutions and individual members of the public, it is hoped gradually to build up a scheme of public health and medical relief which will cover every part of the State and provide facilities and amenities to every citizen. In this attempt, all systems of medical relief, including our indigenous systems will be encouraged so that medical relief of some kind or other will be available in the rural areas. In particular, primary health centres under the modern system will be opened in the rural areas to the maximum extent possible and village Vydias will be trained to afford safe medical relief under the indigenous system.

In the field of Elementary Education, my Government attach the greatest importance to Basic education and they will accordingly endeavour to provide for an increasing number of Basic Training Schools and Basic Elementary Schools. The Government have initiated a scheme of adult education as a first step in their campaign for the liquidation of adult illiteracy. In the field of Secondary education, the Government will continue to implement a scheme of reorganization which was introduced in 1948. My Government have wholeheartedly co-operated with the Government of India's scheme for the formation of a National Cadet Corps.

The Government's schemes in regard to the Electricity Department contemplate the supplementing of Hydro-electric schemes with Thermal schemes wherever necessary and the investigation of new Hydro-electric sources. Owing to the failure of the monsoon, water levels in the reservoirs have gone down and this has made necessary the introduction of certain restrictions; but agricultural loads are not affected and the Government always bear in mind that connections for rural and agricultural purposes must have the highest priority. Shortage of materials is responsible for the outwardly slow development of Government's electrical schemes.

The Irrigation policy of the Government has assumed a new urgency because of the necessity to attain self-sufficiency in food by 1951. Every effort is therefore being made to accelerate the progress of the various sanctioned schemes such as the Tungabhadra, Lower Bhavani, Malampuzha and other projects. Several big and small schemes are now under investigation and it is the hope of the Government to have under execution an appreciable number of schemes in the near future.

Intensive rural reconstruction schemes which the Government initiated in 1946 provide a democratic basis for the development of

rural areas. The scheme has yielded good results in the areas in which it has been tried and Government have decided to extend it to 50 more Firkas in the State next year. Government will continue their policy of giving all possible assistance for the development of Khadi in accordance with the scheme which has been in operation since December 1946.

Government have pursued vigorously their policy of amelioration of Harijan and other backward classes. For the efficient implementation of this policy a Harijan Welfare department was created on the 1st of April last and substantial progress has been achieved.

The Police Force continues to help to maintain law and order in an efficient manner despite the very heavy strain thrown on it as a result of the subversive activities of certain political organizations. My Government will appeal to all who have the interests of the nation at heart to co-operate with them in the task of maintaining law and order and combating subversive activities.

The following is the programme of legislation drawn up by my Government :—

(*a*) *The Madras Village Panchayats Bill.*—This Bill is of far-reaching importance and will enable the Panchayats to undertake nation-building activities on a large scale. The Bill has been passed by the Assembly and will come before the Council during this session. The Bill implements Article 40 of the Constitution, under which the State shall take steps to organize Village Panchayats and endow them with such power and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of Self-Government.

(*b*) In order to regulate the letting of all residential and non-residential buildings and to control the rents of such buildings, etc., my Government have enacted the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1949. In working the provisions of the above Act, certain practical difficulties have been experienced and it has been decided to amend the Act in certain respects. An Amendment Bill for the purpose is expected to be introduced in the current session of the Legislature.

(*c*) In pursuance of their policy of ensuring the proper administration of religious institutions and endowments the Government introduced the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill, 1949, in February of last year. This Bill will be placed before the Legislature during the current session for its consideration.

(*d*) The Legislature is likely to be asked to consider during this session a Bill for amending the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act, 1934, so that Land Mortgage Banks could be organized in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara as in other districts of the State.

(*e*) There are other pieces of legislation under contemplation and they will be introduced in due course.

All these activities of my Government and all the items of legislation will duly come under the survey of your Houses. I know the great traditions of this Legislature, and I am confident in the

trust that you will examine and decide them with the same high sense of duty and responsibility as in the past. I pray that you may be guided with faith, courage and wisdom in your counsels.

I thank you once again for your courtesy and your patience.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

III.—DISCUSSION ON HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to inform the House that on the 11th instant, His Excellency the Governor was pleased to make the above speech to both the Houses of Legislature. A copy of the speech is placed on the table of the House for the reference of the Members. The discussion on this will now take place according to the rules which have already been circulated to the Members. The idea is that some member of the Government party will move a motion to present an address to His Excellency thanking him for the speech and I understand that the Chief Whip, the hon. Member Sri Adityan is going to make the motion and some one will second it. Then the question is whether some general speeches are to come first and then only the amendments. I am not inclined to follow any rigid method on this matter. I leave it to the Hon. Members of the Government to decide it. If anybody is willing to speak before the amendments I have no objection to allow them. But I suppose from one point of view, if both the motion and the amendments are before the House, Members will have an opportunity to speak on either of these. Subject to this I request the hon. Members to take up the discussion on the address of His Excellency."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I suggest that the motion be moved by Sri Adityan. After it is seconded, the amendments might be moved. Sir, we are presenting an address to His Excellency the Governor and we have to use dignified and restrained language. The discussion on this motion will be on a different plane altogether. It would be an advantage to speakers to speak both on the motion and amendments. If the motion is moved, seconded and the amendments moved and seconded, then there can be discussion on both the motion and amendments. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, and I assure the House that the Opposition wants to keep the discussion on this address to His Excellency the Governor in a very dignified and high level and only very restrained language will be used in the discussion."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have already made the position clear. I do not want any restraint to be put upon any hon. Member. Suppose an hon. Member is prepared to speak before the amendments are moved and does not want to speak on the amendment I do not want to restrain him. That is the point. If any Member wants to speak in advance of the amendments, I do not want to shut him out."